

# Dear Expectant Parent(s),



Hey there! First off, we want to thank you for taking the time to read a little about us and hope you may consider us in your decision. We can only imagine the profound impact this decision will have on your life and we deeply admire you for bravely considering adoption as an option for your unborn child. Please know, you are loved, your baby is loved and most of all, you are both children of God who loves us ALL so deeply!

To begin, we want to start with a few things we are NOT...

1. Perfect. (No one is...) 2. Judgmental (That just isn't our place...) and 3. Always going to have the answer.

Here are a few things we ARE... 1. A family who puts God first. 2. A family who chooses time together over everything else and 3. BIG believers in finding joy in the chaos of life and parenting (it's not always sunshine and lollipops).

Duane and I (Lauren) met in 2012 at a party. Duane quickly asked me for my number and did not follow the "wait for a couple days to text" rule. He texted to make sure I made it home safe. Then he asked me out on our first date to a VERY nice restaurant. I agreed at first, but quickly chickened out (I was used to Taco Bell dates) and told Duane we could be friends. He promptly replied (this is the rated G version), "I have enough friends," and we stopped speaking for about a year. He knew from the moment we met he was going to marry me. After that year we started to hang as friends (ha! I win!) and he never pressured me for a relationship, though I know he was hoping for it. After a few years passed and many broken hearts on my behalf later, I finally realized that Duane was who God had for me all along!

We got married in 2015 and immediately packed our bags and moved from rural California to rural Montana where my parents moved to retire. We all love it here! Duane is a business owner and a maintenance manager for McDonald's. I stay home full-time

to home school and raise our two biological daughters - Emily (6) and Annalise (4). I love being a full-time mom and thank God every day we are able to live this life we live. We have a strong support system here who all live within 45 minutes of us - my parents (Grammy and Papa), Auntie Christi and Grandma Karen. Plus a bunch of awesome friends and an amazing church family! Family is very important to us and we spend holidays, birthdays and many regular days during the week visiting each other.

Duane was born in Fresno, California to two deaf parents (so yes, he is fluent in sign language). His parents split when he was about 5 and his upbringing was challenging. Duane is the middle of three boys. He has overcome so much in his life and is an amazing husband and father in spite of it all. He has several hobbies including: playing guitar, snowboarding/skiing, hunting, fishing, archery, hiking and camping.

I was born in Sacramento, California and lived a pretty standard, some would say boring, life. I am the youngest in my family. My dad had two kids in a previous marriage (my half-brother is in his 50's and my half-sister passed in 2019 to ovarian cancer). I have one older full brother. My parents were pretty good examples for me and I feel like we are blessed to have them nearby. My hobbies include: learning to sew, snowboarding, hunting, hiking, archery, glamping and baking. I love to make special cakes for our kids' birthdays and get a little *extra* about it!

We are also an animal loving family! I have owned horses for most of my life, but we recently moved and decided it was time to sell them and put that money toward a forever home and enhancing the girls' homeschool experience through various sports and programs. We do have some other pets still - an Aussie named Pearl, a weenie dog named Mr. Fluffy, a Yorkie named Mocha, a rabbit named Carrot Cutie and our awesome cat who is equal parts hunter and lover, Bob.



Emily is in second grade and loves to learn math, all things outdoors and has a knack for finding the gray area in just about any rule you give her.

We think she'll make a great lawyer someday! She loves skiing, hiking, archery, tennis, art and going to field school.

Annalise is a history buff (yes, at the age of 5). She loves to learn about presidents, the Chicago Fire of 1861 and basically any other historical person. Annalise is a spirited child, but her giant hugs make it all good! Annalise loves a good car wash, Barbies, tennis, swinging and wearing princess dresses any chance she gets.

Above all else though, our strongest focus in our family is our relationship with God. Nightly prayers, bible-centered homeschool curriculum and giving our time, talents and treasures to further God's kingdom. We spend Sundays at church, Duane plays guitar and sings on the worship team, I help with the preschool kids and we all love to serve whenever possible. Christ is our firm foundation and the reason why our family remains solid through thick and thin. We have God to thank for it all!

Our greatest wish for your child is to grow up knowing who they are, where they came from and how much they are loved by each side of this equation. We want him/her to grow up to be independent, courageous and kind. We hope they learn they can share the good, bad and ugly with us and they will be loved no matter what.

We hope this gives you an idea of who we are and what we love. We have been praying over you, and for you, for years and we know God has a plan to work all things for good, even if it doesn't feel good right now. We welcome the opportunity to pour into your child and watch him/her blossom and share it with you along the way. Ultimately, no matter



what you choose for your child - parenting or adoption - we pray for peace and provision for you and your child.

Thank you for considering us as a potential extension of your family. We are honored and humbled by you! God bless you!

Blessings,

Duane and Lauren

*Romans 8:28*

